Rama Varmha Tampuran.— The Standing Order is to the effect that when there is a vacancy it should be filled up very carefully so that it should be borne in mind that this will be a qualification in his favour.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether in the appointment of Mr. Karunakaran Nayar this standing order was strictly adhered to?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Standing Order was in force then.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.— Whether the Standing Order was strictly adhered to, that is the question.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not think any further answer is necessary. When an order is in force, naturally it is always adhered to.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.— Why not we get a straight answer to a straight question?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That Standing Order was in force and it has been obeyed in filling up this vacancy.

Legislative Council Questions — Makaram Session.

377. Mr. Popatlal Govardhan Lalan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of questions recieved from the members for the attention of the Government during the last Makaram Session;

(b) the number disallowed;

(c) the number actually put for ballot;

(d) for the information of the House will the Government be pleased to place on the table a list of the questions received in time by them and allowed but for which no answers were received from the Heads of Departments?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.— (a) 124.

(b) 10 were disallowed and two were returned to the members concerned for resubmission after amendment.

(c) Questions are not balloted.

(d) 44 questions were left unanswered. Copies of them are placed on the table.

Pullut bridge.

378. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

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(a) whether the Pullot bridge has been opened for traffic yet;

(b) if not, what is the delay due to and when they will be able to open it ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) No.

(b) The bridge is now being tested and will be opened for traffic as soon as the tests are completed.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warrier.—May I know when it is expected to complete the test?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— The test has been completed and the bridge has stood the test successfully.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar..—When will it be opened for traffic?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I have already asked them to open it.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— This is about the Karuppadanna Pulloot bridge. What about the Pulloot Cranganur bridge?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The question of taking up that work is under correspondence with the British Government.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Has the British Government anything to do with this work?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— For financing the work. For putting up an embankment and bridge between Pulloot and Cranganur, we have addressed the British Government for funds.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is there any British torritory in that place?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No. The British Government used to give us some money as petrol duty and that amount has to be utilised for this work.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Then the work has already been sanctioned by the Government?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We are only just corresponding with the British Government to give us some money to do this work.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Have the estimates been prepared?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— The estimates have not been prepared.

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Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Pending the reply from the British Government, the whole thing has been kept under pendation. Is it not so? By what time do you expect to hear from them?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I cannot predict.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—When was the reference made?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— About 2 to 3 months ago.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Then we may get their reply very soon?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I hope so.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is this Pulloot bridge now in a sound condition for practical use?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Then is no risk at all?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No.

Economic Depression Loan—pay of the officers.

379. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) what will be financial commitment of the Government for the pay of the offices and the staff appointed for the disbursement of the agriculturists relief loan;

(b) from which item of the Budget does the Government propose to meet the additional expenditure?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—(a) The expenditure so far as it relates to the pay (including allowances) of the officers will be Rs. 18,854 for the current year.

(b) "14-General Administration-VIII-Economic Depression Loan".

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—(a) Is the amount for the remaining portion of the year?

Rama Varmha Tampuran—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.— May I know approximately what has been spent hitherto?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They have worked till now for about one month. If you divide this amount by 6 or 7 you will get the answer.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.— May I know what roughly will be the cost of the Government for the staff of these offices?

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